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JUN 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Senior Training Officers

SUBJECT : Midcareer Course Enrollment

1. During the recent series of meetings of the OTR Curriculum Committee with Senior Training Officers and other key officers from each Directorate, a number of comments were made about the desirability of being able to enroll more officers in the Midcareer Course.

2. Since its inception in 1963, this has been an extremely popular course and selection has often been highly competitive. This has resulted in a high calibre of students, which in turn has contributed significantly to the success of the course.

3. The Office of Training has been aware that there is an abundance of candidates for the Midcareer Course. We have responded by increasing the numbers of runnings from four in FY 1973 to five in FY 1974 to six in FY 1975. Our experience with trying to conduct six Midcareer runnings a year, as you know, was such that the DD/A accepted my recommendation to drop the number back to five in FY 1976--two between Labor Day and the end of the calendar year and three in the winter/spring months.

4. Given the number of qualified personnel in the grades from which selections are made, I would urge that you continue to select your nominees to the Midcareer Course carefully. For other qualified officers in your Directorate who cannot be accommodated within your quota, I would suggest you consider them for the Advanced Intelligence Seminar (AIS) and possibly the course, CIA Today and Tomorrow. The two and one-half week AIS places emphasis on foreign affairs and domestic developments of relevance to CIA, in contrast to the Midcareer Course where the major focus is on the work of CIA and the Intelligence Community. As the content of CIA Today and Tomorrow also deals primarily with the Agency, the two courses together cover some of the same ground as the Midcareer Course.

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5. In order to reduce the pressure for enrollment in the Midcareer Course, one possibility would be to restrict the grade range from which nominees are selected. As you know, the majority of course members has been drawn from the GS-13 level, but GS-12s and GS-14s are also eligible. The selection of officers from these different grades is up to the individual Directorates, and a mix of grades from our standpoint has been useful and desirable. Closing of the course to GS-14s--thus restricting it to GS-12s and GS-13s--might, however, help to alleviate the pressure for enrollment, and I would appreciate your advice as to whether or not you would favor this step.

[REDACTED]

STATINTL

Alfonso Rodriguez  
Director of Training

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OTR/II [REDACTED]:sks (28 May 75)

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